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VOLUME XXVIII.

ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1916.

NUMBER 33.

WAR MUNITIONS BLOW UP

\$25,000,000 Loss in New York Explosion and Fire.

WAREHOUSES BURN

Three Dead and Many Injured By Shock That Shakes Five States—Washington Gets Tip of Impending Danger.

New York—Property loss estimated at \$25,000,000 was caused early Sunday by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition awaiting shipment to the entente allies and stored on Black Tom Island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City.

The loss of life cannot be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby.

Three are known to be dead and at least five more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably mortally.

The detonations, which were felt in five states, began with a continuous rapid fire of small shells, the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite, trinitrotoluene and other high explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells, which literally showered the surrounding country and waters for many miles around.

Fire started soon after the first great crash, which spread death and desolation in its wake, destroyed 13 of the huge warehouses of the National Storage company on Black Tom Island and six other warehouses in which were stored merchandise valued at between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

The cause of the disaster has not been determined. Officials of the National Storage company and the Lehigh Valley railroad, which also suffered heavily through loss of property, declared, however, that reports to them showed a fire started shortly after 1 o'clock Sunday morning on a barge belonging to an independent towing company that had been moored alongside a dock used by the railroad company to transfer ammunition shipments from trains to vessels in the harbor.

The barge, it was said was there without authority of either the railroad or the storage company. The officials refused to disclose the name of the independent towing company, saying they were investigating "to ascertain whether the barge purposely had been set on fire as the result of a plot."

Advance Tip Given. Washington, D. C.—The government Secret Service was notified three days ago that several enemies of England had been employed by German agents to precipitate just such an explosion of ammunition as took place in New York harbor. The informant said that the men were Irishmen, probably members of the Sinn Fein.

What steps were taken to guard against the catastrophe is not known. In any event, they were futile. The Secret Service now is running down its clues in the hope that it will enable the apprehension of the criminals if it should turn out the tragedy was caused by human agency.

Not Liable to Foreign Duty. Washington, D. C.—Mooted questions about the status of state troops called for the Mexican emergency are decided in an opinion given Secretary Baker by Brigadier General Crowder.

General Crowder holds that the state soldiers are not subject to duty outside of the United States unless and until they are formally drafted by order of the President; that they are under control of the Federal government and not of their respective state governors, and that they are entitled to the same pensions and privileges as regulars.

Petrograd Fire Reported. Berlin—Reports of a great conflagration at Petrograd, in which a bridge across the river Neva, 12 large steamers, including several trans-Atlantic liners, and the Putloff gun works and other establishments were destroyed, are printed in the Lokai Anzeiger. The newspaper adds: "The police suspect that the conflagration was the work of anarchists, who planned to burn all public buildings being used for military purposes."

URGENT NEED FOR NAVAL BASE ON COLUMBIA IS ESTABLISHED

Washington, D. C.—The Lane amendment to the naval bill, appropriating \$500,000 to establish a submarine and torpedo boat base on the Columbia river, will be accepted by the house conferees if Secretary Daniels will inform them that he favors the appropriation at this time. This was learned by Representatives Hawley, Sinnott and McArthur Saturday.

They immediately arranged a conference with Secretary Daniels and later in the day presented to him the reasons why, in their judgment, this base should be authorized without further delay.

Before calling on Secretary Daniels the house members conferred with Captain J. S. McKean, aide for material and chief adviser of the secretary on matters of this character.

Captain McKean heartily approved the Lane amendment and said the Navy department was in favor of establishing two submarine bases on the Pacific Coast at this time, one on the Columbia and the other at San Diego.

Captain McKean then went with the Oregon members to call on Secretary Daniels.

The three representatives urged Secretary Daniels to write Chairman Padgett, of the house naval committee, recommending concurrence of the house in the senate amendment.

Secretary Daniels said he would talk with Mr. Padgett about the amendment. The Oregon members tried to exact from him a promise that he would "talk favorably," but he would not commit himself.

Injunction Order Against Longshoremen Strikers Reasonably Modified

Portland—At the conclusion of a two-day preliminary hearing on the merits of the temporary restraining order issued July 19 against striking longshoremen, on petition of the San Francisco & Portland Steamship company, Federal Judge Wolverton Saturday ordered that the injunction be continued pending further the final hearing to determine whether it shall be made permanent.

In granting the preliminary injunction, however, he modified considerably the terms of the previous temporary restraining order.

In general terms, this order restrained the men from interfering unlawfully with the business or property of the company, or with non-union men employed by the company.

Judge Wolverton said he would permit picketing on condition that it be carried on peacefully. He defined "peacefully" to be without threats, violence, vile language or any form of intimidation against strikebreakers.

Explosion Wrecks Grants Pass Irrigation Plant—Plot Suspected

Grants Pass, Or.—What is believed to have been an attempt to blow up the pumping plant which supplies the South Side and Fruitdale ditches with irrigation water at the dam of the Rogue River Public Service corporation, three miles east of this city, was made at the pumping station early Saturday morning.

The night watchman at the pumping station had just stepped behind some heavy timbers when a terrific explosion occurred.

The turbines were damaged and timbers ripped off the dam. The damage to the plant will amount to approximately \$3000 although the most serious aspect at the present time is the loss of the irrigation water to several hundreds of acres of sugar beets.

American See Bullfight. El Paso, Tex.—Hundreds of Americans crossed the Rio Grande Sunday to attend the first bullfight and broncho-busting contest held in Juarez since the Villa regime.

General Francisco Gonzalez, commandant, and Andres Garcia, Mexican consul, expressed gratification over the number attending. The bull ring was thronged with Mexican soldiers, rifles across their knees and cartridge belts swung about their bodies. Interspersed between them sat American men and women and hundreds of gaily-dressed Mexicans.

Check Order Rescinded. Washington, D. C.—Postmaster General Burleson has suspended until further notice his recent orders authorizing postmasters to collect checks on banks in small communities where there are no members of the Federal Reserve system.

The suspension was ordered at the suggestion of the Federal Reserve board. Members of the board said the recommendation was made because more time is necessary to perfect the check collection plan.

Garment Workers Accept Agreement. New York—At a spirited meeting, which lasted until after midnight, the general committee of the Garment Workers' union decided Thursday by a close vote to accept the three-year agreement signed by officials of the union and representatives of the manufacturers, thus ending the lockout and strike which for three months has paralyzed the women's clothing industry of this city. The vote was 43 in favor of the settlement to 40 against it.

WORLD'S DOINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume of General News From All Around the Earth.

UNIVERSAL HAPPENINGS IN A NUTSHELL

Live News Items of All Nations and Pacific Northwest Condensed for Our Busy Readers.

During July 28 and 29, the Russians captured 32,000 Germans.

The supreme lodge of Knights of Pythias is in session at Portland.

One hundred and eighty-four persons lose their lives in the forest fire in Ontario.

German aircraft make a raid on the English coast, dropping bombs at several points.

Winston Churchill, former first lord of the British admiralty, declares England was saved by her navy.

The German submarine Deutschland, preparing to leave American waters, fears an "accident" in Chesapeake bay.

Francis Joseph, emperor of Austria, contracted a severe cold while inspecting troops and is confined to his bed.

Mrs. Sarah Barr, one of the oldest white women in California died Tuesday at Monrovia, near Los Angeles, aged 102.

The heat wave that has enveloped Chicago and the Middle West, was broken Monday by a stiff breeze from the North.

England positively refuses to permit medicines for American Red Cross societies to pass the allies' lines into Germany or Austria.

The committee on industrial preparedness of the naval consulting board has completed a survey of the resources in case of war.

The U. S. court at Norfolk, Va., has rendered a decision which gives back to English owners the prize ship Appam, captured by the Germans.

The failure of the Pope's appeals to the warring nations for peace was admitted by the Pontiff in addressing a delegation of the youth of Rome.

During a quarrel between two employees of the Union Meat company at Portland, one man was knocked into a vat of boiling water and cooked alive.

Striking employees of the three large packing houses in East St. Louis have voted to accept the concessions made by the employers and to return to work Tuesday. About 4500 men are involved.

Henry Edward Duke, a barister and Unionist member of Parliament for Exeter, was appointed to be the new chief secretary of Ireland in succession to Augustine Birrell. The new chief secretary will have a seat in the British cabinet.

Nineteen days with the thermometer averaging 93 degrees was the record of the hot spell in Chicago. The highest temperature was 102; the lowest 61. A total of 325 deaths occurred, including 176 babies; 2600 prostrations were reported, and 809 horses dropped dead in the streets.

An aviator at San Diego, Cal., sends wireless messages at ten-minute intervals during a flight.

Mathematicians at Aberdeen, Wash., have figured out that by shaving yourself three times a week for 50 years, providing you take the money saved from barbers and place it at compound interest, a fortune of \$11,100 will have been accumulated.

B. F. Finn, 93 years old, of the McKenzie River region, Lane county, Oregon, claiming to have been the original of Mark Twain's character, "Huckleberry" Finn, has lost his case in court for the cancellation of a deed conveying the old Finn place.

The severity of the fighting since the beginning of the present offensive on the Western front is indicated by the list of casualties among officers, issued by the London war office, showing for the first three weeks of July 1108 killed, 2834 wounded and 491 missing.

Nearly \$700,000,000 for national defense in the fiscal year 1917 is the aggregate of proposed appropriations in the senate with passage of the army appropriation bill carrying in round numbers \$314,000,000. This grand total for preparedness still is subject to revision, however.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, has been selected as Western manager of the Republican campaign.

Eight persons are arrested in San Francisco, as parties to the placing of the bomb on the street which exploded during the preparedness parade, killing eight people and injuring 40.

Evangelist "Billy" Sunday will make the opening speech for the antislavery league in Portland, which plans to make Oregon "absolutely" dry. Sunday is reported to have refused an offer of \$150,000 to appear in the movies.

GERMAN SUBMARINE MERCHANTMAN MAKES DASH FOR OPEN SEA

Baltimore, Md.—On the second anniversary of Germany's declaration of war against Russia, the German submarine merchantman Deutschland set out from Baltimore on a return voyage to Germany with a declaration of confidence from her commander, Captain Paul Koenig, that he would take her home in spite of the heavy odds she would face when the three-mile limit in the Atlantic ocean is reached.

The submarine was towed out of the slip where she was berthed 23 days ago, at 5:40 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

After getting into midstream the tow line of the tug Timmins was cast off and the Deutschland proceeded down the river under her own power. The Timmins went to one side, the coast guard cutter Wissahickon to the other and the harbor police boat Lannan brought up the rear to prevent undue crowding by the small fleet of launches that followed.

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NEWS ITEMS

Of General Interest

About Oregon

Oregon Will File for Share in Government Good Roads Fund

Salem—Oregon's full share of the Federal good roads appropriation, amounting to \$78,000, for 1916, under the Shackelford bill passed recently by congress, will be claimed at once, members of the State Highway commission and advisory board decided Monday.

Governor Withycombe, in behalf of the State Highway commission, within the next few days will make a formal request of the secretary of Agriculture for the money which it is desired to use this year, if possible. He will request Attorney General Brown for an opinion regarding certain features of the Federal law authorizing the appropriation, and then will tender his formal request to the government for the money.

Decision to ask for Oregon's 1916 share of the Federal allotment provided under the Shackelford measure was made as a result of a conference of the Highway commission with members of the advisory board and a delegation from Portland. The Portland representatives were urgent that action to get the money be immediate, fearing that to delay until the legislature meets might result in the state's losing its allotment from the government for this year.

Under the provisions of the government measure Oregon must match the Federal appropriation with an equal amount of money, which is to be expended as may be decided upon by state highway officials and the Secretary of agriculture.

In matching the government appropriation, assurances were given by the Multnomah county delegation that the county was already prepared to expend \$35,000 on road work on the Columbia River highway.

S. Benson said that he would give \$15,000 for road improvement, and the highway commission decided to allot \$18,000 remaining in the highway fund for work on Ruthton Hill on the Columbia highway, in Hood River county. That leaves only \$10,000 to complete the \$78,000 needed to match the government allotment.

Mine Makes Big Clean-up. Grants Pass—The largest individual cleanup ever reported in Josephine county is that of the Sammons-Cameron Logan mine at Waldo, in this county, and brought to this city for shipment Wednesday.

Four hundred and eighty-four ounces of pure gold, molded into three handsome pale-yellow bricks, were brought to the banks of this city, the same being valued at \$9000. It is reported that the balance of the cleanup, dispersed in other channels, will bring the grand total up to upward of \$14,000 Thirty-four days of actual labor are represented in the making of this handsome amount.

This reliable old hydraulic deep-gravel mine has been a steady producer for over 50 years and never fails of a handsome return to its owners.

Grant Crops in Danger. Baker—Grasshoppers and gophers are causing serious damage to hay, grain and gardens in Grant county. In the Long creek district the grasshoppers have invaded hay fields. W. H. Hiatt reports that his timothy is becoming seriously damaged and he fears that they will attack his grain fields. They are known to have caused considerable loss to other fields.

The ranchers are preparing to fight the pest which, it is feared, may become general. Gophers have been invading gardens in that district and the loss is very heavy, although it is not thought it will be as general throughout the county as that caused by the grasshoppers.

Bend to Join in Exhibit. Bend—The Bend Commercial club will join the other commercial organizations of Crook county in making an exhibit at the State Fair at Salem this fall. At a recent luncheon and meeting of the club support of the movement to the extent of \$100 was pledged and it was voted to send a representative to the next meeting of the County court to ask for an appropriation in aid to the plan. The club also voted to campaign for the proposal to extend the city limits, which will be voted on at a special city election August 15.

Florence Mill to Start. Eugene—According to word reaching Eugene from Florence, the Porter Brothers' sawmill will soon begin cutting 16,000,000 feet of lumber. It is said that there are 10,000,000 feet of logs in the mill pond, to which 6,000,000 feet more will be added for the run. It is estimated that the operations will consume six months and that 100 men will be employed. The Porter Brothers' mill has not been in operation for more than two years.

Big Sheep Shipment Made. Baker—Robert Stanfield, of Stanfield, began Wednesday the shipment of 9000 wethers and ewes from Baker to a meat company in San Francisco. The first shipment of 4500 started in a special train. The remainder will be sent at once.

The sheep are from the grazing lands in the Sumpter valley and are part of an order for 100,000, practically all of which has been shipped.

Papers Cut Down Pages. New York—Publishers of daily newspapers in Greater New York, at a meeting Wednesday, took action which will result in a decrease of the number of pages in their morning, evening and Sunday issues of 121 pages a week, to relieve the newspaper paper situation, which is regarded by the publishers as serious. Action also was taken to eliminate returns of unsold copies.

Army Writers Curbed. San Antonio, Tex.—General Funston sent to the War department at Washington a telegram announcing his intention to rid the various garrisons and camps of newspaper correspondents who send out false accounts of conditions in the camps. He referred to such correspondents as "pests," and said he had endured them as long as he purposed to. An order has been sent to all district commanders along the border covering future action against newspaper men sending out dispatches which may be classed as untruthful.

Cotton Market Advances. New York—A sensationally rapid advance of about \$1.75 per bale following the publication of the government cotton report in the market here Tuesday morning. Just before the official condition of 72.3 per cent, against 81.1 last month and the 10-year average of 78.5, was published, a canvass of local exchange indicated an average expectation of 75.5 per cent, and the government report was far below the most bullish of recent private figures.

German Army Cut Off From German Aid by Russian Forces. London—The second anniversary of Germany's declaration of war on Russia finds the relative positions of the belligerents very different from those of the first anniversary. The entente allies are now pursuing a successful offensive on all fronts, and the central powers are virtually everywhere on the defensive.

Emperor William celebrated the occasion by the issue of proclamations to his army and navy and people which breathed a spirit of continued confidence in ultimate victory for Germany.

The operations on the Eastern front continue to surpass those in the West in dramatic interest. The military critics express great admiration for the Russian tactics, one of the important objectives of which, in their opinion, has been to isolate the Austrians from the German armies on the Russian front. This, it now is contended, has been virtually accomplished by the Russians driving a wedge into the Austro-German positions along the front of Kovel-Vladimir-Volynsk.

The view here is that if the Germans have thus accepted severance from the Austrians, the most decisive result of the whole of the Russian General Russloff's strategy will have been obtained, it being argued by the military observers that without German support the Austrian armies will become demoralized and collapse.

SPORTING GOODS

Our stock of Baseball Equipment is superior to any we have carried heretofore.

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The Fishing Season is here and we are prepared to please you in any of the best makes of Rods, Creels, Flies, Lines, Etc.

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Merchant Millers and Grain Buyers Athena, Oregon. Waitsburg, Washington.



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Monopole Salmon

Monopole Oysters

DELL BROS., Athena, Or. Caterers to the Public in Good Things to Eat.